

# LEADERSHIP STUDIES

## 2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

### WHAT IS LEADERSHIP STUDIES?

The major in Leadership Studies is designed for upper division transfer students to complete their bachelor's degree 100% online. The program offers exceptional value and personalized support, empowering working adults to advance professionally and academically.



Engage in career-relevant coursework that aligns with current and future professional goals.



With courses held 100% online, add to credentials without having to leave home.



Gain foundational leadership skills in planning, critical thinking, sustainability, and organizational transformation.

LEARN MORE



### WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS?

- 137 active students in the major
- New cohorts begin every fall and spring with approximately 35 students per cohort
- 280 graduates of the program
- Students range in age from 22 to 67
- The majority are parents or guardians.

**77%**

Retention  
rate

**74%**

Graduation  
rate

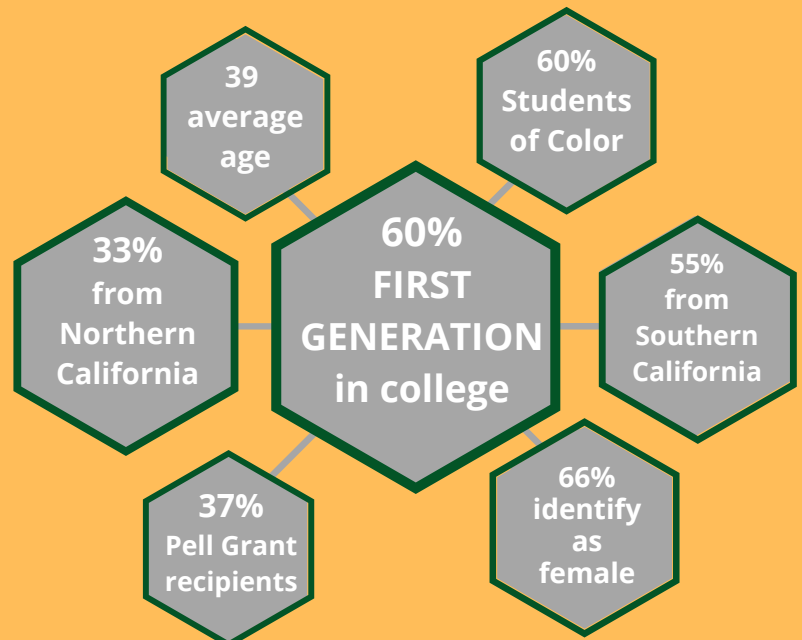
**3.5**

Average  
Humboldt  
GPA

**24%**

Earn 4.0  
GPA

#### Leadership Studies students are:



The program is accessible to non-traditional students, adult learners, rural, and returning students.

# Exceptional Student Support for Fully Online Students

## College of Extended Ed. & Global Engagement

- Dedicated professional and peer advising
- Support while applying and transcript evaluations
- Online and Zoom Group Orientations
- Cohort Model for Peer Support
- Block Registration and 8-week accelerated courses
- Social Channels (Discord, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook) and E-Portfolios
- Advising Corner Resource in Canvas
- Career and Graduate School Advising
- Personalized support from faculty through engaging online classes
- Departmental Graduation

## Cal Poly Humboldt Student Services - Virtual

- Federal Financial Aid (Pell Grants, Loans)
- Cal Poly Humboldt Library and Virtual Skillshops
- Student Disability Resource Center, VETS, Title IX services
- Learning Center and Writing Studio
- Office of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (ODEI)
- The Indian Tribal & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP)
- Project Rebound
- Graduation Pledge
- Sustainability Curriculum
- IT Help Desk and Tech Support
- In-Person Commencement

## Impact of the Leadership Studies Bachelor's Degree

A degree in Leadership Studies is designed to help students advance in a variety of careers, including business, non-profit management, government, social services, healthcare, education, fire fighting, and law enforcement, among others.

58%

of surveyed graduates were managers, supervisors, or led teams or departments upon completing the program

66%

of surveyed graduates saw an increase of 6% or more in salary after completing their degree

60%

of surveyed graduates have been able to advance their career within the same industry

29%

of surveyed graduates have been able to pursue their interests by moving to a new industry

52%

of surveyed graduates have increased job satisfaction



Leadership Studies is one of the most affordable degree completion programs in the CSU system.

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As a direct result of this program, I shifted my career priorities and was promoted to a management position focusing on local land use. I now work directly with department heads throughout my operational area and function at the highest level of my organization.

– Stewart Buettell, Class of 2017



After completing my degree, I was promoted to Director and then Chief Operations Officer of the Yurok Tribe of California.

– Taralyn Ipina, Class of 2016

No other program I found matched the cost-to-value ratio of this program.

– Joseph Kaye, Class of 2023

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# Transfer Pathways to Leadership Studies

Leadership Studies (LDRS) is open to all students who meet the admission requirements. We also offer seamless transfer pathways through partnerships with community colleges and professional organizations. Don't see your major or college listed? You can still apply!

## Retail Management Pathway

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Cerritos College, Fresno City College, and San Diego Mesa College all offer an online Retail Management Certificates (RMC). Completion of one of these Retail Management Certificate programs earns transferable credit toward LDRS.

## Business Pathway

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Students in Norco College's School of Business and Management can earn a certificate or associate's degree that transfers to LDRS.

## College of the Redwoods Pathway

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CR's Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts Behavioral and Social Science Degree and "Starting and Managing a Business" Certificate of Recognition are existing credentials that create an ideal transfer pathway into LDRS.

## Public Safety Pathways

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Students in the School of Public Safety at Moreno Valley College and the Ben Clark Training Center can earn a certificate or associate's degree that will seamlessly transfer to LDRS.

## Welding Pathway

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Students in Antelope Valley College's Welding Program can earn a certificate or associate's degree that will transfer to LDRS.

## Native American Tribal & Affiliates

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Each year, we welcome Tribal members, professionals, and affiliates working for Tribes. In coordination with the Cal Poly Humboldt Indian Tribal & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP), students are provided with culturally responsive advising and support services.

# Professional Pathways to Leadership Studies

## TK-12 Teaching Pathway

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Specifically designed for TK-12 staff and paraeducators to complete their degree while continuing to work full time. This degree provides the opportunity to pursue your dreams of teaching or administration!

## Fire Management Pathway

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Firefighters at all levels can earn their BA online while working full-time. California Chief Officers can use State Fire Training courses to earn credit at Cal Poly Humboldt, further accelerating their time to graduation.

## Higher Education Professionals Pathways

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Specifically designed for college and university staff in all areas of operations and student services. Earning your B.A. opens the door to promotion, management, or a graduate degree!

## U.S. Veterans Pathway

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Students may earn 4-6 units of general education and elective credit by filing a copy of their Member 4 DD214 with the Veterans Enrollment and Transition Services (VETS) office, as well as receive additional support.

# **LEADERSHIP STUDIES**

## **ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS**

I think the Leadership program is great. However, I didn't enter the program for career reasons. It brought joy to my life and encouraged me to think about things I had not thought deeply about before. I would recommend the program to anyone.  
(2021)

I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to complete my degree later in life. It has enabled me to remove a longstanding regret.  
(2017)

The program was an AWESOME opportunity. Seamless online learning, minimal technical errors, LDRS faculty were incredibly available and helpful. Affordable cost. Diverse set of skills and scenarios were offered.  
(2023)

Immensely grateful to Cal Poly Humboldt for the LDRS program and opportunity to earn my degree online. It was a rewarding experience with great professors and fellow students. I am proud to be an alumni.  
(2021)

I was on a dead-end career path and I now work for a Fortune 500 global company where the diversity and caliber of my colleagues is exponentially greater. The opportunities are plentiful. I make 32% more than at my old job. I have never lost sight of the doors that opened to me upon my graduation from Humboldt. I'm forever grateful and proud to be a Lumberjack!  
(2020)

I loved the program. It was much better formatted than my M.A. program at another university. The professors were supportive and truly invested in our learning. It was also highly instrumental in obtaining a new position at my job.  
(2020)

I was enlisted in the Air Force when I started and completed my studies at Humboldt. Earning a BA enabled me to go directly to law school upon completion of my enlistment. I will start at a midsize firm in Columbus, Ohio. Thank you!  
(2018)

**Read the full interviews from LDRS students, alumni, and faculty here!**

